

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 H-01 PRS-01 L-03 IO-13

/074 W

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R 070330Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2717

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS MILI MU YS IR

SUBJECT: DHOFAR BRIGADE BRIEFING ON IRANIAN PHANTOM INCIDENT

REF: MUSCAT 1465

1. BRIG. HUXTABLE, COMMANDER OF DHOFAR BRIGADE, BRIEFED DCM NOVEMBER 29 IN SALALAH ON INCIDENT FIVE DAYS EARLIER IN WHICH IRANIAN PHANTOM JET WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR OMAN-PDRY BORDER.

2. PLANE WAS FIRST SIGHTED BY DHOFAR BRIGADE OUTPOST NOT FAR FROM BORDER HEADING SOUTHWEST AT EXTREMELY LOW ALTITUDE. PLANE WAS OVER OMANI TERRITORY BUT WAS FLYING IN DIRECTION THAT WOULD TAKE IT OVER BORDER A FEW MILES NORTH OF SEA AND THEN OVER ENVIRONS OF PDRY SEAPORT OF HAUF. SIGHTINGS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER BY OTHER OUTPOSTS SHOWED AIRCRAFT DID NOT DEVIATE FROM THIS COURSE BEFORE CROSSING BORDER AND CRASHING IN SEA OFF HAUF. ACCORDING HUXTABLE, PLANE WAS NOT VISIBLE AT MOMENT OF CROSSING BORDER DUE TO TERRAIN, SO IT IMPOSSIBLE DETERMINE IF IT WAS HIT OVER OMANI OR PDRY TERRITORY. AT LAST SIGHTING OVER OMAN IT HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN HIT, WHILE AT FIRST SIGHTING OVER PDRY IT HAD BEEN HIT.

3. HUXTABLE SAID INCIDENT CAME "STRAIGHT OUT OF THE BLUE" AS FAR AS HIS COMMAND WAS CONCERNED. HE HAD NO FOREKNOW-
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LEDGE OF AIRCRAFT'S PRESENCE. ANOTHER WELL-INFORMED SOURCE IN

SALALAH COMMENTED LATER THAT IRANIAN MILITARY IN DHOFAR, WHILE THEORETICALLY UNDER COMMAND OF SAF HQ IN MUSCAT, IS SOMETIMES KNOWN TO ACT RATHER INDEPENDENTLY. THIS SOURCE CONFIRMED STORY THAT A SECOND IRANIAN PLANE HAD CROSSED OMAN-PDRY BORDER SAME DAY FARTHER NORTH, HAD APPARENTLY BEEN SHOT AT, AND HAD GOTTEN AWAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, JET AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUSCAT01497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-0439
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761266/aaaacfdj.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MUSCAT 1465
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DHOFAR BRIGADE BRIEFING ON IRANIAN PHANTOM INCIDENT
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, MU, YS, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006